

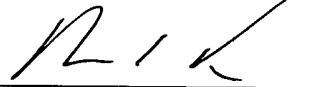
REMARKS

Only the allowed claims are now pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1-3, 7, 9, 11, and 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Pending claims 4-6, 8, 10, 12, and 14 have been allowed. The enclosed formal drawings adopt the approved drawing correction filed on May 22, 2003.

Applicants look forward to receiving an early Notice of Allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Date: 12-24-03

Respectfully submitted,



Marc A. Rossi
Registration No. 31,923

ROSSI & ASSOCIATES
P.O. Box 826
Ashburn, VA 20146-0826
Phone: 703-726-6020